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American Federation of Labor -- Railroad Employees Department Minutes of meeting....Chicago, January 4, 1912.

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"Amer. Federation of Labor. Railroad employes dept.

[Preliminary meeting]

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE RAILROAD EMPLOYES
DEPARTMENT OF THE A. F. OF L. HELD IN CHICAGO, JAN . 4, 1912.

The members of the Department met as per call of Chairman Perham, on January 4, 1912, at 10 a. m., Chairman Perham presiding. The following members answered the roll call:

H. B. Perham,
M. F. Ryan,
J. B. Connors,
J. A. Franklin,
J. W. Kline,
J. D. Buckalew,
W. H. Davies,
A. B. Lowe,

Order, Railroad Telegraphers
Bro. Ry. Carmen of America,
Switchmen's Union of N. A.
Boilermakers,
Blacksmiths,
I. A. of Machinists,
Pipe Fitters,
I. B. of M. of W. E.

Chairman Perham read a telegram from the President of the Painters' Union, relative to the admission of their union to the Department. He also read a telegram from Brother J. Scott, Sec. of the Federated Crafts on the Harriman Lines, relative to the calling out of the shop crafts on other lines.

RE THE METAL POLISHERS.

Brother Franklin moved, seconded by Brother Ryan, that the Sheet Metal Workers be admitted to membership in the Department and that the proper officials of that organization be notified accordingly. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Brother Davies, seconded by Brother Lowe, that it be understood that their admission does not acknowledge their jurisdictional claims. Carried.

STRIKE ON HARRIMAN LINES AND RESOLUTION NO. 130
OF THE A. F. OF L. CONVENTION.

A letter from President Gompers to Chairman Perham, calling attention to Resolution No. 130, which he quoted, was read by the Chairman. After a general discussion, it was decided to answer President Gompers' letter, acknowledging its receipt and telling him that the matters contained therein had been duly disposed of.

Meeting adjourned to 2:30 p. m.

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PAINTERS UNION.

The application of the painters and decorators to the Department was taken up, and after due consideration, it was moved by Brother Franklin, seconded by Brother Connors, that a vote be taken on the application of the painters. Further action later resulted in the following motion:

"Moved by Brother Buckalew, seconded by Brother Kline, that the Painters' organization be admitted to the Railroad Employes Department, with the understanding that the jurisdictional rights of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, shall not beinterfered with; the understanding being that neither shall claim that their organization is the only one to which painters shall belong, but both shall have the right to organize painters. Carried. Brothers Franklin and Ryan voting "NO."

Brother Skemp accepted the proposition stated in the understanding and the secretary was instructed to include the following letter from the Grand Secretary Treasurer of the Painters' and Decorators' organization:

"Dear Sir and Brother:

The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America has made application for admission to the Railway Employes' Department of the A. F. of L. This application will be submitted to you for consideration. The following facts are presented for your information:

The Brotherhood has upwards of fifty local unions, the membership of which is confined exclusively to the men employed in painting railroad cars and equipment. In addition to these, there are at least fifteen hundred other members of the Brotherhood employed in railway car shops and living in localities where there is not a sufficient number to justify the existence of a separate union of that branch of our trade, who are affiliated with local unions of house painters. We have contracts covering all painters employed by a number of the principal railway systems and expect to enter into others in the near future.

We are not asking the transference of painters who may be members of other railway organizations, but desire to be affiliated with the Department, so as to secure the support of the other trades in our efforts to obtain better conditions for our members and to co-operate in securing better conditions for the men of other trades with whom we are associated. We have no desire to raise questions of jurisdiction, but believe we can work in perfect

harmony with each and all of the organizations now affiliated with the department.

Hoping that our application will receive your favorable consideration, I am, with best wishes,

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

G. S. -T.

Sk. -P.

FREIGHT HANDLERS.

On motion duly made and seconded, the secretary was instructed to notify the officers of the Freight Handlers organization that, unless their arrears of fee and dues be paid in or before February next, they shall be considered as being no longer in connection with the Department.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CAR WORKERS.

On motion properly made and seconded, Chairman Perham was instructed to ascertain whether the I. A. of C. W. are affiliated with the A. F. of L. and if not then the title of their organization shall be dropped from the literature of the department.

CREDENTIALS.

The letter to be signed by the members of affiliated organizations having gone astray, a new credential was signed up, authorizing Chairman Perham to represent the Department in legislative matters.

CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN FEDERATION.

Brother Kline brought up the matter of this Federation, which had been turned down by the management of the above railway. A long discussion ensued concerning the matter, and the power of the Department generally in relation to calling strikes. The final action was to advise that on full consideration of the situation on the C. & N. W. it was resolved that the federation be advised to let their negotiations remain in abeyance until a more favorable time.

A committee from the Burnside Federation was admitted and presented several resolutions, which were promised consideration by the proper officials. The members of the Department were invited to a mass meeting on Friday at 10 a. m. at Burnside. It was moved by Brother Lowe, seconded by Brother Ryan, that Conners be authorized to attend as representative of the Department, which

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motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned to meet on Friday, the 5th, at 9:30 a. m , when Brother Connors reported having attended the meeting, as per resolution, and found the men in splendid spirits and confident of success in their long struggle.

The meeting convened on Friday at 9:30 a. m. when the minutes of the former meeting were read and approved.

TELEGRAM FROM SAN FRANCISCO FEDERATION.

On motion of Brothers Ryan and Connors, it was resolved that a telegram from the Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation, whose members are on strike, be answered, acknowledging its receipt, assuring them that the matter contained in the telegram has been turned over to the Executive officials of the Crafts concerned, who were giving prompt consideration to the representations made, and to congratulate them on their splendid staying powers, which was carried unanimously and a telegram sent by the Secretary of the Department, as follows:

"J. Scott,
608 Hibernian Bldg.,
San Francisco, California.

Telegram received; the matters contained therein are receiving prompt attention and consideration of the general officers of the crafts concerned. We congratulate you on your splendid staying powers.

H. B. Perham."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Chairman Perham called Brother M. F. Ryan to the chair, who called for nominations. Brother Connors, in a brief complimentary speech, nominated Chairman Perham to succeed himself, and the secretary was unanimously instructed to cast a ballot for him, which was done and Chairman Perham installed and congratulated upon the confidence shown in him by the Acting Chairman, Brother M. F. Ryan, who expressed the thoughts of the Department in wishing him success in the management of the affairs of the Department.

Brother Franklin was also re-elected unanimously to the office of Vice-Chairman.

For Secretary-Treasurer, Brother Lowe suggested that a Secretary should be chosen from some of the crafts at present so

directly interested in the federation movement. Brother Connors advised the appointment of a permanent Secretary, the advisability of which was strongly seconded by Secretary Lowe and several of the other brothers, but it was finally decided that for the present, Secretary Lowe be chosen to continue in the office with the expectation that in a short time, it may be possible to appoint or elect a permanent secretary and on the usual motion and vote casting by Brother Perham, Secretary-Treasurer Lowe was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, at least, pro tem.

On motion of Brother Ryan, the meeting adjourned until called together by the Chairman, and if conditions are normal, the next meeting will be held, on Brother Ryan's suggestion, at Kansas City, Mo.

A. B. LOWE,

Secretary-Treasurer.

P. S. I have notified President Gompers, as per instructions of the Department, and have also written to Brother Sullivan of the Sheet Metal Workers and Brother Flannery of the Freight Handlers, in accordance with the instructions of the Department.

A. B. LOWE.

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